

AMENDMENT IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract to read as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~Disclosed are an An~~ optical fiber preform manufacturing ~~apparatus and method in which~~
~~processes for shrinking and closing a deposited tube are conducted using a device suitable for those~~
~~processes, which device is other than the device used in a deposition process for forming the~~
~~deposited tube~~ method whereby a clad layer and a core layer is deposited on the inner surface of a
preform tube, ~~thereby reducing the processing time while reducing the amount of OR penetrated~~
~~from the preform tube into a vitreous component~~ for forming a deposited tube. One end of the
deposited tube, ~~thereby achieving a reduction in OR loss. In accordance with the optical fiber~~
~~preform manufacturing apparatus and method, operations are conducted which involve setting the~~
~~heating temperature of~~ is shrunk and closed. The deposited tube which has a closed end is arranged
extending vertically through a circular heater. A heat is applied to the deposited tube at a temperature
lower than the softening point of a deposited tube, exhausting contaminants existing in the interior
of the deposited tube while moving the circular heater ~~at a desired temperature, setting. The the~~
heating temperature of the circular heater is then set to a temperature not lower than the softening
point of the deposited tube, ~~and shrinking to shrink and closing close the deposited tube while~~
~~moving the circular heater to a desired temperature.~~